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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/700,057	02/05/2001	Colin Brown	9052-67	1282
20792	7590	11/22/2006	EXAMINER	
MYERS BIGEL SIBLEY & SAJOVEC			WHITE, EVERETT NMN	
PO BOX 37428			ART UNIT	
RALEIGH, NC 27627			PAPER NUMBER	

1623
DATE MAILED: 11/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/700,057

Applicant(s)

BROWN, COLIN

Examiner

Everett White

Art Unit

1623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 September 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 23,26-35 and 45-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 23,26-35 and 45-51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed September 19, 2006 has been received, entered and carefully considered. The amendment affects the instant application accordingly:
 - (A) Claims 1-22, 24, 25 and 36-44 were previously canceled;
 - (B) New Claims 45-51 have been added;
 - (C) Claims 23, 27-31 and 34 have been amended;
 - (D) Comments regarding Office Action have been provided drawn to:
 - (I) 112, 2nd paragraph rejection, which has been withdrawn;
 - (II) 103(a) rejection, which has been maintained for the reasons of record.
2. Claims 23, 26-35 and 45-51 are pending in the case.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
 2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
 3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
 4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.
4. Claims 23, 26-35 and 45-51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dobbie ("Separation of Peritoneal Surfaces Through the Maintenance of an Artificial Ascites as a Preventative of Peritoneal Adhesions" Abstract, from The 4th Peritoneum and Peritoneal Access Meeting, September 16-19, 1997) in view of Milner (US Patent No. 4,886,789, already of record) for the reasons disclosed on pages 2-5 of the Office Action mailed April 21, 2006.

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5. Applicant's arguments filed April 21, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants argue against the rejection on the ground that the Dobbie abstract and the Milner patent are directed to methods characterized by removal and replacement of fluid several times per day to effect a reduction in adhesion occurrence and that there is no teaching in the references of how reduction of adhesion formation could be achieved by a single instillation that remains in the body cavity for at least two days. This argument is not persuasive since the Dobbie reference does disclosed the administration of a dextrin composition (Icodextrin) for use post-operatively in patients with a high risk of abdominal adhesions, which suggests the instantly claimed invention. Applicants are reminded that limitation of a process with respect to ranges of certain process conditions such as time does not impart patentability to a process when such values are those, which would be determined by one skilled in the art in achieving optimum operation of the process. *In re Mostovych et al.* (CCPA 1964) 339 F2d 455, 144 USPQ 38; *In re Aller et al.* (CCPA 1955) 220 F2d 454, 105 USPQ 233. The present of the dextrin composition in the body cavity for at least two days is an insufficient reason for indication of patentable subject matter. The Milner patent is only cited to show that the administration of the polysaccharide dextrin of the instant claims to a body cavity such as the peritoneal cavity is well know in the art. The newly added Claims 45-51 have been carefully considered, but do not disclosed any information that over comes the teachings of the Dobbie reference in view of the Milner patent under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Accordingly, the rejection of Claims 23, 26-35 and 45-51 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Dobbie reference in view of the Milner patent is maintained for the reasons of record.

Summary

6. All the pending claims (Claims 23, 26-35 and 45-51) are rejected.

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

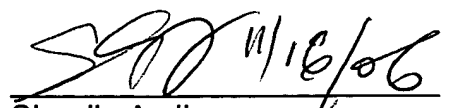
Examiner's Telephone Number, Fax Number, and Other Information

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Everett White whose telephone number is 571-272-0660. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Shaojia A. Jiang can be reached on 571-272-0627. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


E. White


Shaojia A. Jiang
Supervisory Primary Examiner
Technology Center 1600